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ORR and for economic estimates for NIE program

13 November 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AND REPORTS

SUBJECT: Research on Current Trends in Soviet Economic Policy

1. Along with the other members of the intelligence community, the Board of National Estimates has been following with great interest the current trend in Soviet domestic economic policy, in particular the new program emphasizing the development of agriculture and the consumer-goods industries. As you know, there has been considerable debate over the precise character of the program and its probable impact on Soviet industrial and military strength.

2. Since this new Soviet economic program will have to be examined in our forthcoming Soviet estimates, the Board feels that the firmest possible research foundation should be laid before the intelligence community take a firm position on the matter. Moreover, the Board believes that agreement among the various agencies can be achieved more easily if there are available careful analyses of:

a. Basic economic factors limiting the long-term development of the Soviet economy, presumably including the specific deficiencies which the new program is designed to remedy;

b. The character, magnitude, and probable effects of the program as planned;

c. Critical economic factors affecting the probability of successful implementation of the new program.

} pertinent

3. We feel sure that O/RR is already undertaking studies designed to supply all or most of this information, but the Board would like formally to express its interest in the three subjects listed above and request O/RR to make studies on them available to O/NE as soon as possible.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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